

LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

August 23, 2016 7:00 p.m.
LCA Meeting Room

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Adair Mulligan, vice chair; Tim Cook,, Laurie Wadsworth; Patty Jenks, select person; Pat Erwin-Ploog, alternate; Steve Rich, alternate

ABSENT: Jane Eakin

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Chair Clark.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** With a few minor corrections, the Draft Minutes from the July 27 meeting were approved as amended. Steve requested copies of the Minutes be mailed to him at 130 River Road.
2. **Photo documentation of Endangered or Critical Properties - our "Top Ten" Nominations** Finalized list. Three more properties were suggested as additions to our ever-growing list: Mudge Farm, River Road; Hagerman-Giddings, Dorchester Road, Lyme Center; Sherman Phillips (Margaret Hewes'), Goose Pond Rd. After a short discussion, we finalized our list of the top 5, which we will try to document this fall:

#1 Mudge (Since it is on the market, and John has indicated that he'd be willing to host us.)

#2 Hamilton House - **Laurie** will contact the Greenleafs

#3 Mildred Clark's (now vacant) house - Flint Hill Rd.

#4 Sherman Phillips (Margaret Hewes'), Goose Pond Rd.

#5 Bill & Jo Grant, 20 Hews Lane – purportedly the oldest house in Lyme

Patty will follow up with the rest of the Selectboard to get their approval of a "Permission to Photograph" with the modifications suggested by the Town's counsel. [done]

3. **Photo documentation - review photo library system** Pat reported that we will need 2 pieces of information for the records: the meta-records (address, session #) and a place to store them. Ray informed her that this system was started with the windshield survey done by Liz Hengen, architectural historian, in 2012-13. Pat will e-mail sample Building Review forms to us [done, Aug. 24] so we can take notes. The question remains, "Who will type up the notes?" Long-time Commissioners remember the mountains of paperwork and setting up of files that the inventory required, and all of us spent many hours organizing, collating, labeling, etc. We need help setting up an efficient data system. After our first sets of photos are complete (Steve's photos of the Fairfield House, along with the addition of the Mudge house) **Pat** will create a data base and merge the Hengen photos with the new ones.

4. **Chesley Schoolhouse - progress report** The State Department of Environmental Services has approved the subdivision of the non-conforming lot, so now the Town Planning Board has to accept the determination. When that is recorded, the gift of deed will be granted and the property will be transferred to the Lyme Historians, with some stipulations requested by Jane Palmer.

5. Fencing at Little Common - progress report **Tim** will ask Jane Fant to write acknowledgements to the donors. The Greenleafs had some concern about the placement of the posts near the old tree, so that question remains to be solved. The Lyme Water Assn. has approved the plans, but the Selectboard need to see them also. Tim asked for our advice: between the 4 foot granite posts, should there be 3 rails or 4? It was suggested to construct a model with string to help visualize the fence. Other than looks, the other concerns are mowing, snow, and children climbing on (and breaking) the rails.

6. Demolition ordinance - revise for Planning Board Commissioners enjoyed a lengthy debate about the standard of 50 years for a property to require review before demolition. The Planning Board recommends that the Heritage Commission come up with a list of “significant” properties, and only these would require review. The question then becomes one of subjectivity. Is 50 years (the standard for properties to be deemed “historic”) too young? Should it be 100 years? 75? **Tim** agreed to contact Nadine Peterson at the Historic Preservation office and Beverly Thomas at the NH Preservation Alliance for advice about the best procedure.

7. East Thetford Bridge - Tim Steve will take or find the photos that Jay Barrett requests.

8. Application to State for historic marker for Lyme Horse Sheds- update Laurie reported that Michael Whitman is working on this; no further updates yet. In other fast-breaking eyewitness news, she reports that Liz Hengen prefers two words, so we will be using the term “Horse Sheds” from now on.

9. Facade easements - are we ready, willing Ray reported that he has had a request for a facade easement from the Heritage Commission. After providing a definition for those of us not versed in building/planning issues, another long discussion ensued about the benefits, costs, and responsibilities of the Heritage Commission holding facade easements for some historic structures in town. We decided to again rely on the experience and expertise of the preservation professionals before we decide on this. **Tim** will ask them.

10. Photos of the “Poor Farm” (Fairfield Farm, 100 River Road) Adair and Ray attempted to set up computer and projector so Commissioners could view a slide show of the photos Steve took before, during and after the demolition of the 1774 house, but the modern technology balked at such a task. We were able to view a few of the photos on the computer screen. The techies will try to meet the standards set by 18th c. builders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Wadsworth

Next meeting - Tuesday, September 27th, 2016